

Mr. Walter R. Collings, editor
Notre Dame Magazine
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Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Mr. Collins,

While hospitalized a few days ago for eye surgery I was given a copy of Prof. DeSantis' article provocatively misstitled "Who Killed JFK?"

Because of visual handicaps I believe will be only temporary it was difficult for me to read your article with the care and concentration it warrants and, as you can see, typing is still quite difficult for me.

First of all I want you to know that your eminent professor's snide comment about me is plagiarized and from the least scholarly of sources, a work of unhidden sycophancy. Separate is the question, was that a fair comment from a professional historian who had read the work in question? Frankly, I believe he did not, from a simple factual error that does not originate with him, the date of publication. Every book has a copyright notice.

There are, sad to say, only too many indications of the professor's incredible ignorance of the literature and the fact in this field. Along with this there is, I suggest, particularly given his credentials in a different era in American history, indications that he had and does not credit partisan sources and assistance.

When I have recovered the full use of my eyes I do plan to write and submit an article addressing the professor's sycophancy, in the belief that you will be fair, as he ~~wasn't~~ wasn't.

I will, however, get no joy from it, not when the matter at issue involves the assassination of a president, to me the most subversive of possible crimes.

So, in the hope you will accede to them, I make two suggestions. One is that you phone two professional historians who have expert knowledge of the field and then that you offer Professor De Santis ^{each} to do what is good for the soul, make honest confession. That could obviate my need to protect my own reputation (and may I suggest your's also), and to document what I believe he'd rather not have documented.

Professor David Wrone, University of Wisconsin, Stevens point, is coauthor of the recognized scholarly bibliography of JFK assassination literature. Professor Gerald McKnight is head of the history/polisci department of local Hood College, where all my records, including some 60 file cabinets of materials mostly obtained by Freedom of Information Act litigation, will be a free public archive. Both of these scholars know me and my work very well and can and I'm sure will answer any questions you may have, including your professor's readily-identified plagiarism (even 21 years after publication). Aside from the magnitude of my scholarship, which is not exactly normal in your professor's field, these authorities can attest that I published most of the original critical information and in seven books, not the single one misdated in your article. (May I ask how many deposits of original materials your history department has that total about 60 file cabinets?)

This is, to me, a sorry business and while my own reputation means much to me, as does the regard in which my work is held by those not sycophants, I would, quite frankly, prefer not to have to expose the transgressions against his own discipline by a professional historian who may be close to my own years, 75. Too bad to me also is the fact that this professor is from a major Catholic university and that for some reason he does not articulate he is impelled to dismiss all criticisms of the official investigations of our only Catholic President. ^{W. R. Collins} If you have any questions, please phone me until I can type better. 301/473-8186.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg